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Whether the book under consideration is as successful from a practical point of view as it is commendable from a theoretical is another question, and one which the actual test will, perhaps, alone answer.

It is almost needless to say that the book is a most careful and scholarly piece of work, and covers, in a very thorough and accurate way, the field of secondary prose instruction. The *Remarks*, found in almost every chapter, are especially suggestive and helpful. In one respect only does it seem to us the book is open to serious criticism, and that is in the fact that the passages chosen for continuous translation are so exclusively Ciceronian in character and content that they are ill-adapted to pupils reading Cæsar or Nepos. Pupils begin Latin prose in their Cæsar year, and as a considerable portion of the prose work must be covered in that period, would it not have been desirable if the earlier continuous passages had been based on Cæsar, or at least had some connection with Cæsarian themes?

To ask a boy who is reading of the war with the Helvetians, and whose mind—so far at least as his Latin interests are concerned—is filled with that interesting and dramatic tale—to ask such a boy to translate into Latin a passage having to do with Roscius of Ameria or The Career of Verres is to transfer him forcibly and prematurely into a region which is foreign and strange, and consequently deadening to his interest and enthusiasm.

Not but that these exercises and the others of like character in the book are choice and practicable—in their place. The only point is that they are out of place at the time at which the pupil meets them.

We may be mistaken in this criticism, but at present we feel that this consideration will be, in the minds of many secondary teachers, a very serious impediment to the adoption of the book.

JAMES HUGH HARRIS

Selection from L'Honnond's Viri Romæ and Cornelius Nepos, edited
by MESSRS. JOHN P. BUCHANAN and R. A. MINCKWITZ.
Maynard, Merrill & Co.

THIS book certainly marks another step in advance for a movement now happily started in the right direction. It seems that at last our text-books prepared for the second year's work in Latin are to have the unnecessary matter eliminated. That is what the editors have suc-

ceeded in doing in the little volume just recently from the press. From start to finish there is clear evidence of a firm determination to introduce nothing except which will be intelligible and helpful to pupils of the age and attainments that use such a book. Without intending to be unkind, it is my opinion that very many former editions of the same and similar selections have suffered from the desire of young editors to make a show of erudition. Glancing over a number of editions before me, I find explanations of abstruse points in etymology, syntax and Roman life that are of no importance and of but very little, if any, interest to the pupil.

In trying to provide a bridge for the chasm that plainly exists between the beginner's Latin books and Cæsar, Messrs. Buchanan and Minckwitz have so planned the helps that the pupil may go on reading his author with grammatical equipment gained in his first year's work. A very great mistake that is almost universally made in the transition to the second year's work, is to place one of the standard Latin grammars in the child's hands and compel him to relearn the rules in the more complete and technical statements of the manual. The drudgery thus imposed crowds out any enthusiasm the child may have for his Latin from a literary standpoint. By omitting grammatical references and using only simple terms in the notes, such as are found in beginning books, the little volume makes it possible for the pupil to pass right on to a rapid and appreciative reading of Latin.

Three maps accompany the selections, one each of Italy, Gaul, and Rome. The last named map seems to me to be of great value and very properly introduced in such a work.

In an edition that has so much to commend we certainly should be willing to overlook a few imperfections. That it has some imperfections is of course to be expected. Some are certainly to be found in the notes where the desire to be simple and direct sometimes leads to a meagerness or incompleteness of statement where a little more information is desirable and would be helpful to a young pupil.

The press work, by J. J. Little & Co., of New York, is tastefully done, and adds much to the attractiveness of the book.

T. L. COMPARETTE